



## APRN DECISION MAKING MODEL

The Decision Making Model is a guide for APRNs to use when determining whether a specific procedure, task or activity is within the APRN scope of practice and, if so, whether the specific procedure, task or activity is consistent with standards of practice, appropriate to perform based on the individual APRN's knowledge and skills, and is appropriate based on the clinical setting.

The Board also publishes Interpretive Guidelines that address specific RN and LPN practices and these are available on the Board website at [www.nursing.ohio.gov](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov). However, since it is not possible for the Board to establish Interpretive Guidelines for every procedure, task or activity, the Decision Making Model was developed so APRNs could apply it as needed for their specific practices.

<p><b>First ask: Is the procedure/activity prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code or the Ohio Administrative Code? If yes, do not proceed.</b></p>	
<p><b>Guiding Questions</b></p>	
<p>Is the procedure/activity consistent with the Ohio Nurse Practice Act, rules regulating the practice of nursing, and Interpretive Guidelines of the Board.</p>	
<p>If <b>NO</b>: <b>STOP</b></p>	<p>If <b>YES</b>, ask: Do practice guidelines of a national specialty or advanced practice organization support inclusion of this procedure/activity in your particular practice?</p>
<p>If <b>NO</b>: <b>STOP</b></p>	<p>If <b>YES</b>, ask:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you possess the depth and breadth of <b>knowledge</b> to perform this procedure/activity safely? AND</li> <li>2. Do you possess the depth and breadth of <b>knowledge</b> to respond appropriately to complications or untoward effects of the procedure/activity?</li> </ol> <p><i>At this step of the decision-making process:</i></p> <p>You must be able to provide documentation, upon request of the Board, to show evidence of your <b>knowledge</b> to perform the procedure/activity. Such knowledge is generally obtained through education emanating from a recognized body of knowledge relative to the care to be provided. Documentation could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APRN educational programs;</li> <li>• Preceptorship, fellowship, or internship; and/or</li> <li>• Other formally organized educational experience</li> </ul>

		<p>If <b>NO</b>:   <b>STOP</b></p>	<p>If <b>YES</b>, ask:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you possess the depth and breadth of current <b>skills and clinical competence</b> to perform this procedure/activity consistently and safely? AND</li> <li>2. Do you possess the depth and breadth of current <b>skills and clinical competence</b> to respond appropriately to complications or untoward effects of the procedure/activity?</li> </ol> <p><i>At this step of the decision-making process:</i></p> <p>You must be able to provide documentation, upon request of the Board, to show evidence of your <b>skills and abilities</b> to perform the procedure/activity.</p> <p>Documentation could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APRN educational programs;</li> <li>• Formally organized educational experience; and/or</li> <li>• Return demonstrations or skills check-off</li> </ul>
		<p>If <b>NO</b>:   <b>STOP</b></p>	<p>If <b>YES</b>, ask:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this an accepted standard of care? Would a reasonable, prudent APRN perform this activity in this setting and under these circumstances?</li> <li>2. Will you assume accountability for providing safe care in performing the procedure/activity?</li> </ol>
		<p>If <b>NO</b>:   <b>STOP</b></p>	<p>If <b>YES</b>, you have concluded that the procedure/activity is within your scope of practice. Proceed to agency/institutional education, competency, credentialing or privileging criteria, and other considerations.</p>
<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>			
<p>Although the procedure/activity may be within your APRN scope of practice, you should be familiar with other state or federal statutes or regulations that may affect the ability of an APRN to perform the procedure/activity, including, for example, laws and rules of the Ohio State Medical Board or Ohio Board of Pharmacy; laws and rules of the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, or the Ohio Department of Medicaid; or federal Medicare regulations.</p>			
<p>It is important for APRNs to determine whether other state or federal laws establish parameters regarding a particular procedure/activity before they perform it. APRNs must also consider applicable policies and procedures of their agency or institution, as well as factors such as payer and malpractice carrier policies.</p>			

### **Additional Information**

The Nurse Practice Act and the administrative rules are available for review in their entirety on the Board website at [www.nursing.ohio.gov](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov) under the “Law and Rules” link.

- In general, the regulations governing the practice of APRNs is found in Ohio Revised Code Sections 4723.01, 4723.151(B) and (C), and Sections 4723.41, 4723.43, 4723.431, 4723.44, 4723.48, 4723.481, 4723.4810, 4723.483, 4723.488, 4723.489, 4723.50, 4723.51, 4723.52 and 4723.99, and in administrative rule Chapters 4723-8 and 4723-9, Ohio Administrative Code.

To access other applicable information, law and rules:

- State Medical Board of Ohio: [www.med.ohio.gov](http://www.med.ohio.gov)
- Ohio Board of Pharmacy: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov)

Board approved National Certifying Organizations for Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, can be accessed on the Board website at [www.nuring.ohio.gov](http://www.nuring.ohio.gov) under the “Practice APRN” link.

Email APRN practice questions to the Board at [practice@nursing.ohio.gov](mailto:practice@nursing.ohio.gov)

This Model is intended to assist APRNs in determining their individual scope of practice based upon the Ohio Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules, and the individual’s education, knowledge, and skills. It is not intended to provide legal advice. Those using the Model should refer to the Nurse Practice Act and the administrative rules in their entirety.

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